

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 107465
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 SIG-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 /086 R

DRAFTED BY AF/S:JDAVIDOW;DH
APPROVED BY AF - TSEELYE
AF/S:DKEOGH
AF:WEDMONDSON

-

-----112202Z 029587 /64

O 112116Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 107465

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RH, UK

SUBJECT: US-UK PLANS TO PROCEED WITH RHODESIAN CONSULTA-
TIONS

1. STATE DEPT ISSUED FOLLOWING STATEMENT AT 10:30 AM
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 107465

EDT MAY 11 TO COINCIDE WITH SIMILAR ANNOUNCEMENT MADE IN
PARLIAMENT BY FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN. QUOTE: THE US
SECRETARY OF STATE, MR. CYRUS VANCE, AND THE BRITISH
FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY, DR. DAVID OWEN, HAVE
CONSIDERED THE PROBLEM OF RHODESIA IN THE LIGHT OF THE
LATTER'S TRIP TO AFRICA. BOTH GOVERNMENTS WISH TO
REITERATE THEIR COMMON DETERMINATION TO WORK FOR THE

INDEPENDENCE OF RHODESIA UNDER MAJORITY RULE IN 1978. THEY HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGED BY THEIR CONTACTS SO FAR TO BELIEVE THAT DETAILED CONSULTATIONS ABOUT AN INDEPENDENCE CONSTITUTION AND THE NECESSARY TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE A SATISFACTORY WAY TO ACHIEVE THIS. THEY HAVE, THEREFORE, AGREED THAT BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES SHOULD NOW ENTER INTO A PHASE OF INTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS WITH THE PARTIES. FOR THIS PURPOSE THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO ESTABLISH A CONSULTATIVE GROUP TO MAKE CONTACT WITH THE PARTIES WHICH WILL VISIT THE AREA AS NECESSARY, INCLUDING SALISBURY. IT WILL BE HEADED BY

MR. J.A.N. GRAHAM, DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY AT THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE. MR. VANCE HAS AGREED TO APPOINT A SENIOR UNITED STATES OFFICIAL TO WORK WITH THE HEAD OF THE BRITISH CONSULTATIVE GROUP. END QUOTE.

2. IN HIS MAY 6 LONDON MEETING WITH NATIONALIST LEADER NKOMO, SECRETARY VANCE EXPLAINED THAT THE U.S. AND U.K. BELIEVE THAT DR. OWEN'S EARLY APRIL AFRICA TRIP SET THE STAGE FOR FURTHER BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS. THE ISSUE OF IMMEDIATELY CALLING A CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE AND THE UNITED STATES POSSIBLE ROLE IN THAT CONFERENCE HAVE BEEN PUT ASIDE FOR THE PRESENT. NKOMO REMAINS AMBIVALENT ABOUT U.S. PARTICIPATION, BUT WE BELIEVE THAT HE WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE INITIAL PHASE OF CONSULTATIONS REFERRED TO ABOVE.

3. SUBSEQUENT TO THE NKOMO MEETING WE BRIEFED NATIONALIST
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 107465

LEADERS MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE AS WELL AS THE PRESIDENTS OF MOZAMBIQUE, ZAMBIA, BOTSWANA AND TANZANIA. THEIR RESPONSES HAVE BEEN GENERALLY FAVORABLE, THOUGH MANY OF THEIR QUESTIONS REMAIN UNANSWERABLE UNTIL THE NEGOTIATIONS ACTUALLY BEGIN.

4. WE HAVE SO FAR BEEN UNABLE TO CONTACT AND BRIEF THE PERIPATETIC ROBERT MUGABE, LEADER OF ZANU NATIONALIST GROUP. ANY POST WITH A FIX ON HIS WHEREABOUTS SHOULD REPORT IT IMMEDIATELY TO WASHINGTON.

5. POSTS ARE NOT RPT. NOT INSTRUCTED TO APPROACH HOST GOVERNMENTS ON THIS ISSUE. HOWEVER, IF CONVERSATIONS WITH FOREIGN OFFICIALS TOUCH ON THIS TOPIC YOU MAY DRAW UPON THE FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS FOR GUIDANCE. TALKING POINTS:

A. ON MAY 11 THE U.S. AND THE U.K. ANNOUNCED INTENTIONS TO PROCEED INTO A PHASE OF INTENSIVE BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS

WITH THE PRINCIPAL PARTIES TO THE RHODESIAN DISPUTE TO SEE IF COMMON GROUND CAN BE FOUND ON THE ISSUES OF THE INDEPENDENCE CONSTITUTION AND THE NECESSARY TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS.

B. THE UNITED STATES IS DETERMINED TO WORK FOR THE INDEPENDENCE OF ZIMBABWE UNDER MAJORITY RULE IN 1978. THIS IS A FUNDAMENTAL TENET OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S ADMINISTRATION.

C. THE RECENT REPEAL OF THE BYRD AMENDMENT REFLECTS THE US DETERMINATION TO INCREASE THE PRESSURE ON RHODESIA TO MAKE SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATIONS POSSIBLE.

D. AS WE SEE IT, A LONG, INTENSE CONFLICT WOULD BE DISASTROUS FOR ALL CONCERNED: FOR THE PEOPLES OF ZIMBABWE AND THE SURROUNDING COUNTRIES, AND FOR THE ECONOMY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 107465

OF THE REGION. A STEADILY GROWING WAR WILL IN ANY EVENT POSTPONE INDEPENDENCE.

E. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE MILITARY PRESSURE ON THE ILLEGAL SMITH REGIME WILL CONTINUE. BUT, TO SHORTEN THE CONFLICT AND HASTEN INDEPENDENCE, NON-MILITARY PRESSURE AND NEGOTIATIONS ARE ALSO NECESSARY.

F. WE HAVE CONSULTED CLOSELY WITH THE BRITISH AND AGREE WITH THEM THAT CONSULTATIONS ABOUT AN INDEPENDENCE CONSTITUTION AND THE NECESSARY TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS COULD HELP ACHIEVE A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT. ACCORDINGLY, WE HAVE AGREED TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THEM IN CARRYING OUT A NEW PHASE OF INTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS WITH THE PARTIES THAT WERE PRESENT AT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE.

G. WE BELIEVE SUCH CONSULTATIONS ARE ESSENTIAL TO PROVIDE SOME BASIS FOR DISCUSSION AMONG THE PARTIES AND FOR A SETTLEMENT. IT WOULD BE FUTILE TO RUSH INTO ANOTHER CONFERENCE BEFORE THERE IS SOME AGREEMENT ON BASIC PRINCIPLES.

H. WE UNDERSTAND THE CONCERNS ABOUT US DIRECT INVOLVEMENT IN A CONFERENCE. WE WANT TO PLAY A ROLE THAT WILL HELP RATHER THAN HINDER THE PROCESS.

I. EMPHASIZE: WE DO NOT WISH OURSELVES TO NEGOTIATE THE DETAILS OF A CONSTITUTION. THIS SHOULD PROPERLY BE LEFT TO THOSE IMMEDIATELY CONCERNED AND THE UK.

J. WE SEE OUR ROLE IN THE CONSULTATIVE PROCESS AS

FACILITATING AGREEMENT ON BASIC PRINCIPLES AND HELPING
THE BRITISH SEEK A REAL BASIS FOR SETTLEMENT.

K. IF THERE IS PROGRESS IN THE CONSULTATIONS, WE ARE
PREPARED TO URGE THE SMITH REGIME TO AGREE TO A JUST
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 STATE 107465

SETTLEMENT. THERE ARE LIMITS TO OUR ABILITY BUT WE
BELIEVE WE CAN HAVE A CONSTRUCTIVE INFLUENCE.

L. THE BRITISH WILL ESTABLISH A SPECIAL GROUP IN AN

AFRICAN CAPITAL TO PURSUE THE BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS.
THE US WILL ASSIGN A SENIOR OFFICIAL TO WORK CLOSELY
WITH THE HEAD OF THIS GROUP. OCCASIONAL VISITS TO
RHODESIA MAY BE NECESSARY.

M. WE WILL CONDUCT CONSULTATIONS JOINTLY WITH THE
BRITISH OR SEPARATELY DEPENDING ON THE WISHES OF THE
INDIVIDUAL PARTIES.

N. IT MUST BE EMPHASIZED THAT THE UNITED STATES DOES
NOT SEEK TO IMPOSE ANY PARTICULAR FORM OF GOVERNMENT ON
ZIMBABWE. IT IS FOR THE PEOPLE CONCERNED TO DETERMINE
THE NATURE OF THEIR GOVERNMENT AND CHOOSE THEIR LEADERS.
WE BELIEVE IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT WE WORK IMPARTIALLY WITH
ALL THE NATIONALISTS GROUPS. CHRISTOPHER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INDEPENDENCE, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, PRESS RELEASES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, SELFDETERMINATION, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE107465
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JDAVIDOW;DH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770166-0515
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770568/aaaacgvf.tel
Line Count: 201
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 28693096-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2558285
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-UK PLANS TO PROCEED WITH RHODESIAN CONSULTA- TIONS
TAGS: PFOR, RH, UK, US, (VANCE, CYRUS R), (OWEN, DAVID)
To: AF POSTS RABAT MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/28693096-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009